THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Truckers'strike

813. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the terms and conditions on which the truckers' strike in August this year, was resolved; and

(b) the loss of revenue, if any involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The All India strike by the truckers in August this year was resolved following signing of two separate agreements by this Ministry and Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), copies of which are enclosed as Statement-I and II (See below).

(b) The loss of revenue on account of this strike has not been assessed by the Ministry.

Statement-I

Minutes of the meeting between representatives of the Transport Industry and Department of Revenue, Government of India, held on 27th August, 2004

1. Government reiterates that the Service Tax on Goods Transport Agency will not fall on truck owners or truck operators. The truck owners or truck operators will not be required to collect or pay any Service Tax. Government will make suitable rules/notifications as required and also define "commercial concern" and "consignment note" to make it clear that truck owners and truck operators are not required to pay or collect Service Tax. The rules/notifications will be finalized in consultation with a Committee set up for this purpose. Service tax will be levied and collected on the basis of the said rules/notifications. The Committee which will include representatives from the transport industry and Government will look into appropriate mechanism/modalities for collection and payment of Service

Tax by commercial concerns. The Committee will give its report as early as possible but not later than 2 months.

2. Procedural problem of refund of TDS by truck owners from Income Tax Department is appreciated. Steps will be taken by the IT Department to simplify the problem of refund.

3. In view of this Agreement, the strike called by AIMTC is called off forthwith.

4. Following withdrawal of strike, Government will move the Court to withdraw cases against those arrested under ESMA during this strike.

Sd/-	Sd/-
REVENUE SECRETARY	PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA	AIMTC

Statement-II

Agreement on the other issues

Scrapping of 8/15 years old vehicles: Government agrees to examine the problems faced by transport sector in this regard.

Third Party Insurance: The Chairman, IRDA will be requested to ensure that the insurance companies strictly follow the guidelines of IRDA issued from time to time and take suitable action against those companies violating the guidelines.

Toll: The Government has already set up a Committee in this regard. The Committee will be requested to expedite submission of its Report and the recommendations of the Committee will be considered by the Government.

Security on National Highways: The Government will issue fresh directives to State Governments to revive State Committees to ensure safety on the Highways.

Sd/-	Sd/-
SECRETARY(RT&H)	PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA	AIMTC
27.08.2004	27.08.2004